



**PUBLIC
LANDS / WATER
ACCESS
ASSOCIATION, INC**

March 22, 2018

Exhibit 22

3609 Willoughby Avenue Butte, MT 59701

March 9th, 2018

Comments for the Forest Service Scoping and Public Meeting March 13, 2018.

Dealing with Crazy Mountain Access.

As a longtime Director of Public Lands / Water Access Association, Inc. for Southwest Montana, in my opinion the proposed trail relocation is a definite - Lose - Lose situation. The forest service scoping document was hastily put together and violates the NEPA process. The document didn't address wildlife nor the threatened wolverine and Yellowstone cutthroat trout - no consideration for wildlife, fisheries or their habitats.

The Forest Service can not do away with prescriptive rights on private lands - This is a state right. Also, they cannot negate railroad easement grants that are into perpetuity. They also have put out misleading information on the proposed trail relocation - it will cost more than their analysis and with serious funding problems after the last summer fire season it will never be built. They haven't money to keep up their existing trails. Their 2018 trail budget has \$0000000.00 dollars listed.

Since the Forest Service used these trails for decades, they should have negated grazing rights for any leasee that illegally blocked them. This didn't happen even though their own guidelines directed otherwise.

The proposed trail relocation will force the public to higher elevations of rock and ice conditions with trail use vastly diminished during heavy snow seasons. It isn't a better public route because the elderly and very young couldn't utilize it.

If the forest service uses a Categorical Exclusion for this proposal - then our groups will be forced to file a lawsuit against the landowners that are illegally blocking the existing trails. The exclusion decision will probably come out of Washington, D.C. because Montana Forest Service personnel will be afraid of losing their jobs like the former district ranger did. The dismissal of the former district ranger is a clear indication how rotten politics are being used in this decision - some of the proponents stand to make a great deal of money while the public will be the big losers.

I would like the comments of Brad Wilson and John Daggot included as part of my comments because they, unlike most of the proponents, have been on the trails and know the area well.

I would like to emphasis that the public should never relinquish a prescriptive or perpetual easement to anyone, especially on such a politicized proposal such as this (a pie in the sky) offer that will never happen.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.


Tony Schoonen

Director Southwestern Montana